

a glass-side passivation layer of a predetermined material and thickness disposed on the glass-side conductive layer; and

liquid crystal material sandwiched between the glass-side passivation layer and the silicon-side passivation layer;

wherein the glass-side passivation layer is 300-900 angstroms thick and comprises a material selected from the group consisting of CeO_2 , In_2O_3 , MgO , SnO_2 , Ta_2O_5 , TiO_2 , Y_2O_3 , SiO_2 , ZnO , Al_2O_3 , BeO , MgF_2 and combinations thereof.

41 17. (New) A silicon-backed microdisplay as in claim 16, and wherein the silicon side conductive layer comprises aluminum.

18. (New) A silicon-backed microdisplay as in claim 16, and wherein the silicon-side passivation layer comprises a silicon dioxide layer in combination with a silicon nitride layer.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is requested in view of the remarks that follow.

In the April 11, 2003 Office Action in this application, the Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the Janssen et al. patent publication. As indicated above, claims 1-15 have been cancelled; new claims 16-18 have been added. For the reasons set forth below, it is believed that new claims 16-18 patentably distinguish over the teaching of the Janssen et al. publication.

Applicant's new independent claim 16 recites a silicon-backed microdisplay that includes a silicon side and a glass side and which improves the work function balance of the device. More specifically, new independent claim 16 recites that the silicon side of the microdisplay includes a silicon substrate, a silicon-side conductive layer disposed on the silicon substrate, and a silicon-side passivation layer, between 2000-6000 angstroms thick, disposed on the silicon-side conductive layer. The glass side of the claim 16 microdisplay comprises a cover glass, a glass-

side conductive layer disposed on the cover glass, and a glass-side passivation layer that is 300-900 angstroms thick and comprises a material selected from a group of oxides listed in claim 16.

That is, new independent claim 16 defines a silicon-backed microdisplay that has a silicon side having specific physical characteristics and a glass side also having specific physical characteristics.

On careful review of the Janssen et al. reference, Applicant is of the good faith belief that the reference neither teaches nor suggests the specific physical attributes of the glass side in combination with the silicon side of the microdisplay device recited in Applicant's new independent claim 16.

The Examiner has also cited the Lu et al. '324 patent as evidencing work function balance characteristic well known in the art.

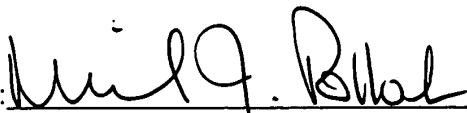
However, again, upon careful review, Applicant is of the good faith belief that the Lu et al. reference, whether considered individually or in combination with the Janssen et al. reference, neither teaches nor suggests these specific physical characteristics of the silicon-backed microdisplay defined by Applicant's new claim 16.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant believes that all claims currently pending in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Therefore, it is requested that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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